



Interstate Telehealth Workgroup

KICK-OFF MEETING

JANUARY 30, 2023

Note: This meeting is being recorded and will be posted to MHCC's website



Welcome





Agenda

- ▶ **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
- ▶ **Updates on Previous Telehealth Study, Other Relevant Content**
- ▶ **Overview of the Workgroup Approach**
- ▶ **Discussion**
- ▶ **Next Steps**



Background – Prior Telehealth Study

- ▶ The Maryland legislature passed the *Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2021* (Act) during the 2021 legislative session
 - Prolongs telehealth coverage and payment through June 30, 2023, including services delivered using audio-only technology
 - Requires MHCC in collaboration with state agencies to study the impact of telehealth and develop recommendations on telehealth coverage and payment levels relative to in-person care
- ▶ The telehealth study yielded 15 recommendations as it relates to telehealth coverage, technology, payment levels and future study, terms in statute, and network adequacy
 - A Final Recommendations Report was submitted to the Senate Finance Committee and House Health and Government Operations (HGO) Committee



Prior Telehealth Study Activities



PROVIDER SURVEY

Over 1,000 responses



CONSUMER ENGAGEMENT

Structured interviews with 78 English and Spanish speaking Maryland consumers



FOCUS GROUPS

Two sessions with behavioral health care subject matter experts from provider and consumer organizations



CLAIMS ANALYSIS

Explored trends in telehealth use from 2018-2021 for Medicaid and commercial claims and 2018-2020 for Medicare



LITERATURE REVIEW

A review of existing evidence to examine the impact of telehealth on access, utilization, and cost



TOWN HALLS

Two events with providers and payers to discuss the current and future state of telehealth



Purpose of Interstate Telehealth Workgroup

- ▶ The HGO Committee requested MHCC study the ways interstate telehealth can be expanded to allow State residents to use telehealth to receive health services from out-of-state practitioners
- ▶ Study must align with House Bill 670 - *Maryland Health Care Commission - Study on Expansion of Interstate Telehealth*, which was withdrawn by bill sponsors during the 2022 session
- ▶ A final report detailing study finding recommendations for expanding interstate telehealth is due to the HGO Committee by December 1, 2023



Interstate Telehealth Study - Key Areas of Focus

- ▶ The interstate telehealth workgroup will discuss challenges and identify approaches that **improve Marylanders' access to telehealth services from out-of-state practitioners** while ensuring protections for patients and an adequate supply of Maryland practitioners
- ▶ Study scope:
 - How to address the health insurance coverage and medical liability issues associated with the use of out-of-state practitioners through telehealth?
 - Are interstate health compacts sufficient for expanding the use of interstate telehealth?
 - Whether Maryland should alter its licensure practitioner requirements to further the availability of telehealth services while continuing to protect patients and, if so, how?
 - What impact will promoting out-of-state telehealth have on Maryland practitioners?
 - Other policy issues that the workgroup considers relevant to expanding access to telehealth services.



Key Staff: Westat/CCHP



- ▶ **Eric Pan, MD**, Principal Research Associate, Westat
- ▶ **Shannon Reefer, RN, MPH**, Principal Research Associate, Westat
- ▶ **Mei Wa Kwong, JD**, Executive Director, Center for Connected Health Policy (CCHP)



Discussion



Interstate Telehealth



How to address the health insurance coverage and medical liability issues associated with the use of out-of-state practitioners through telehealth?



Interstate Telehealth



Are interstate health compacts sufficient for expanding the use of interstate telehealth?



Interstate Telehealth



Whether Maryland should alter its licensure practitioner requirements to further the availability of telehealth services while continuing to protect patients and, if so, how?



Interstate Telehealth



What impact will promoting out-of-state telehealth have on Maryland practitioners?



Interstate Telehealth



Other policy issues that the workgroup considers relevant to expanding access to telehealth services?